

It's About Time...



Volume 5 Number 1

Winter 2001

DEMAND CLEMENCY FOR LEONARD PELTIER

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Oakland "Riders" - Vigilante Police Sued

By John Burris (Adapted from San Francisco Bay View, Dec. 20, 2000)



A CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT was filed in federal court against the Oakland police officers commonly referred to as the "Riders" and others within the Oakland Police Department. The lawsuit, filed by John Burris, James Chanin and others alleges federal civil rights violations. Additionally, they are requesting that the Department of Justice's Office of Civil Rights file a civil action against the Oakland Police Department on the grounds that the department engages in a pattern and practice of police misconduct against African Americans.

Although currently there are approximately 30 cases being investigated, we believe that hundreds and possibly thousands of people have been victims of a wide array of civil rights violations by the "Riders" and other officers in West Oakland. Such conduct includes planting of drugs, making false police reports, discriminatory harassment, illegal stops or arrests, illegal searches, coercion, intimidation and verbal abuse.

Most of these officers have previously been sued for using excessive force. Mr. Burris has personally sued Officer Mabanag three times and both Siapno and Hornung at least once. Each of them has been the subject of numerous citizens' complaints going back many years. Despite this, the command staff, which has a responsibility to be proactive in identifying officer misconduct and administering fair and appropriate punishment, did nothing to deter these officers' misconduct. In fact, the officers were often commended for their work, giving them a strong signal that their supervisors approved of

NEWS BRIEFS

***Kansas City, MO** - A 77 year old woman beat the Federal Govt. in a case surrounding \$82,000 found in her car's gas tank. A federal judge ruled that Helen Chappell of Kansas City could keep the money found in her 1995 Volkswagen. The car had been seized in a drug operation by Federal Agents; the owner was charged with illegal drug trafficking. The car was then checked and resold at a Federal Auction last year. The car was malfunctioning and a mechanic found the \$82,000 floating in the fuel tank. The government re-seized the car, claiming the money. But the Judge ruled that the government lost its right to the money when it resold the car "as is".

***Los Angeles** - DDT case finally goes to trial. After 11 years of legal wrangling, U.S. Judge Manuel Real will decide whether Montrose Chemical Co. and 3 other companies will have to pay to restore resources and compensate the public. The case could run into the hundreds of millions of dollars, including \$16 million sought to help restore the eagle and falcon populations.

The case centers on DDT deposits, now totaling about 100 tons, that have been lingering on the ocean floor of the Palos Verde peninsula ever since Montrose Chemical manufactured the pesticide at the Los Angeles plant near Torrance. From 1947 until 1971, the Montrose plant discharged DDT into L.A. County sewers that empty into the ocean. The pesticide was banned in the U.S. in the early 1970's after it was linked to severe reproductive problems in birds and other wildlife, and cancer in humans. *Editor's note: Once again profits over peoples' health.*

***Baton Rouge, LA** - Ex-elections chief, Jerry Fowler, accepts a plea deal.

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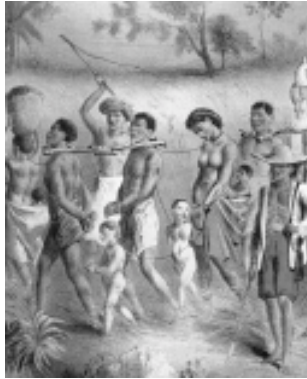
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Top Attorneys to Seek Slavery Reparations

A powerful group of civil rights and class action lawyers is preparing a lawsuit seeking reparations for African American descendants of slaves. The Reparations Assessment Group, according to Harvard law professor Charles J. Ogletree "Will be seeking more than just monetary compensation. We want change in America. We want full recognition and a remedy of how slavery stigmatized, raped, murdered and exploited millions of Africans, through no fault of their own".



The group includes Alexander J. Pires, who won a one billion dollar settlement for Black farmers against the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture; Richard Scruggs, who won the \$368.5 billion settlement for states against the tobacco companies; Dennis C Sweet III, who won a \$400 million settlement in the fen-phen diet drug case; Willie E Gary, who won a \$500 million judgment against the world's largest funeral home operator; Randall Robinson, President of TransAfrica Forum and Johnnie Cochran.

Many decisions still need to be made including who will be named as defendants and when the suit will be filed. Federal and State governments as well as private entities which benefited from 244 years of legalized slavery will be targeted. Much of the early development of Amerikkka resulting in the accumulation of tremendous wealth, was built with slave labor.

For a more detailed analysis, read "The Debt" by Randall Robinson.

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their style of policing. The department only acted when a rookie officer blew the whistle. No actions were taken when the same allegations were previously made by citizens.

For more information: contact John Burris (510) 839-5200, or James Chanin (510) 848-4752.

NEWS BRIEFS from Page 1

Louisiana's former elections commissioner pled guilty to federal and state charges that he took kickbacks from voting machine suppliers.

***Trenton, NJ** - New Jersey state troopers used racial profiling. Nearly 100,000 pages of documents show that N.J. state troopers stopped overwhelmingly disproportionate numbers of minorities in search of drugs, the state attorney general said. The files show that from 1990 until 1999, all of the State's Attorney Generals were aware of the policy of stopping blacks on the turnpikes more than whites and did nothing about it. The documents were pulled because in April '99, two troopers shot 3 blacks during a traffic stop, sparking the investigation of racial profiling.

***San Bernardino, CA** - Human guinea pigs swallow pollutants. Every morning, 100 volunteers swallow pills, supplied by Loma Linda University Medical Center. They are paid \$1,000 each. The pills contain an industrial pollutant called perchlorate, a chemical found in rocket fuel. The experiment is funded by giant Lockheed Martin to see if perchlorate pollution is harmful to human health. Perchlorate can inhibit production of thyroid hormone. Normal thyroid function is critical for regulating the growth of fetuses and young children and regulating metabolism in adults.

***Washington DC** - The Supreme Court, in a 6-3 opinion, ruled that the Fourth Amendment forbid drug-search roadblocks. Police may not routinely stop all motorists in hopes of finding a few drug criminals.

The court also ruled that police may not stop and search a pedestrian based entirely on a vague and anonymous tip phoned to police headquar-

On Lynching And The Ku Klux Klan

By Ho Chi Minh (1924)

It is well known that the Black race is the most oppressed and the most exploited of the human family. It is well known that the spread of capitalism and the discovery of the New World had as an immediate result the rebirth of slavery, which was for centuries a scourge for the Negroes and a bitter disgrace for mankind. What everyone does not perhaps know is that after sixty-five years of so-called emancipation, American Negroes still endure atrocious moral and material sufferings, of which the most cruel and horrible is the custom of lynching.



The word "lynching" comes from Lynch. Lynch was the name of a planter in Virginia, a landlord and judge. Availing himself of the troubles of the War of Independence, he took the control of the whole district into his hands. He inflicted the most savage punishment, without trial or process of law, on Loyalists and Tories. Thanks to the slave traders, the Ku Klux Klan, and other secret societies, the illegal and barbarous practice of lynching is spreading and continuing widely in the States of the American Union. It has become more inhuman since the emancipation of the Blacks, and is especially directed at the latter...

From 1899 to 1919, 2,600 Blacks were lynched, including 51 women and girls and ten former Great War soldiers. Among 78 Black lynched in 1919, 11 were burned alive, three burned after having been killed, 31 shot, three tortured to death, one cut into pieces, one drowned, and 11 put to death by various means.

Georgia heads the list with 22 victims, Mississippi follows with 12. Both have also three lynched soldiers to their credit. Of the 11 burned alive, the first State has four and the second two. Out of 34 cases of systematic, premeditated and organized lynching, it is still Georgia that holds first place with five. Mississippi comes second with three.

Among the charges brought against the victims of 1919, we note: one of having been a member of the League of Non-Partisans (independent farmers); one of having distributed revolutionary publications; one of expressing his opinion on lynchings too freely; one of having criticized the clashes between Whites and Blacks in Chicago; one of having been known as a leader of the cause of the Blacks; one for not getting out of the way and thus frightening a white child who was in a motorcar. In 1920, there were fifty lynchings, and in 1922 there were twenty-eight.

These crimes were all motivated by economic jealousy. Either the Negroes in the area were more prosperous than the Whites, or the Black workers would not let themselves be exploited thoroughly. In all cases, the principle culprits were never troubled, for the simple reason that they were always incited, encouraged, spurred on, then protected by politicians, financiers, and authorities, and above all, by the reactionary press...

The place of origin of the Ku Klux Klan is the Southern United States. In May, 1866, after the Civil War, young people gathered together in a small locality of the State of Tennessee to set up a club. A question of whiling away the time. This organization was given the name "kuklos", a Greek word meaning "club". To Americanize the word, it was changed into Ku Klux. Hence, for more originality, Ku Klux Klan.

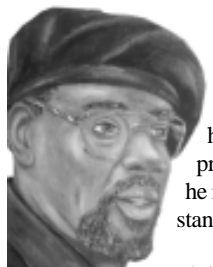
After big social upheavals, the public mind is naturally unsettled. It becomes avid for new stimuli and inclined to mysticism. The KKK, with its strange garb, its bizarre rituals, its mysteries, and its secrecy, irresistibly attracted the curiosity of the Whites in the Southern States and became very popular. It consisted at first of only a group of snobs and idlers, without political or social purpose. Cunning elements discovered in it a force able to serve their political ambitions.

The victory of the Federal Government had just freed the Negroes and made them citizens. The agriculture of the South - deprived of its

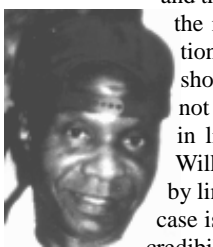


ANGOLA 3 UPDATE

A THREE-JUDGE PANEL of the 5TH Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that there was enough reason to further examine the lawsuit by Robert King Wilkerson who is serving a life sentence for the 1973 stabbing death of Angola inmate August Kelly during a fight. Another inmate had also been found guilty, admitted stabbing Kelly in self-defense and testified that he acted alone.



The 5th Circuit noted that the state's only evidence against Wilkerson was the testimony of convict William Riley who recanted his testimony in 1998. Another inmate, Charles Lawrence, swore in 1988 that he had been intimidated into testifying for the state by prison officials, who threatened to delay his release and he made a 1995 affidavit in which he said Wilkerson was standing beside him when the killing occurred.



Federal law restricts repeat habeas corpus petitions and they are usually denied. To have a second go-round, the inmate must show a possible constitutional violation at his trial that contributed to the conviction and show through new evidence that "it is more likely than not that no reasonable juror would have convicted him in light of the new evidence." The court ruled that Wilkerson's fair trial rights might have been violated by limits placed on the cross-examination of Riley. The case is being sent back to a lower court to determine the credibility of the new affidavits and whether they show that he is "actually innocent".

Albert Woodfox and Herman Wallace, both framed for the 1972 murder of a prison guard in Angola (see previous issues of IAT newsletter), are both waiting for appeals and post-conviction hearings to proceed.

Wilkerson, Woodfox and Wallace are all also represented by the ACLU in a federal suit alleging that their 28 years in solitary confinement violates their constitutional rights.

The hearing on the State's motion to dismiss the ACLU suit is on January 12, 2001 at 10:00am in Courtroom 5 at the Baton Rouge Federal Courthouse, 777 Florida St., Baton Rouge, LA.

For more information visit the website www.prisonactivist.org/angola or write:

National Coalition to Free the Angola Three
PO Box 221100,
Sacramento, CA 95822

e-mail: marina@napanet.net or pantherette859@cs.com

The National Coalition to Free the Angola Three and It's About Time would like to thank all those who contributed to the recent fund-raising campaign for the Angola 3.

LYNCHING from Page 2

Black labor, was short of hands. Former landlords were exposed to ruin. The Klansmen proclaimed the principle of the supremacy of the white race. Anti-Negro was their only policy. The agrarian and slaveholding bourgeoisie saw in the Klan a useful agent, almost a savior. They gave it all the help in their power. The Klan's methods ranged from intimidation to murder...

The Klan is for many reasons doomed to disappear. The Negroes, having learned during the war that they are a force if united, are no longer allowing their kinsmen to be beaten or murdered with impunity. They are replying to each attempt at violence by the Klan. In July 1919, in Washington, they stood up to the Klan and a wild mob. The battle raged in the capital for four days. In August, they fought for five days against the Klan and the mob in Chicago. Seven regiments were mobilized to restore order. In September the government was obliged to send federal troops to Omaha to put down similar strife. In various other States the Negroes defend themselves no less energetically.

ZOLO UPDATE

Letters to the Editor:

LETTER OF THANKS!

This is an open message of utmost gratitude to you. The measure of your help to me is invaluable. i am personally grateful and euphorically appreciative. i was granted a stay of execution. Without your help the outcome would have been unpleasantly different. We can do together what we could not do alone. You've stopped the killers for now, but i still need more help.

As the international debate about the death penalty rages, people like myself are the only ones who actually know the real story. i am a target in an insane political climate rampant with racism, imperialism, crass reaction, and vindictiveness. i was convicted in 1982 on perjured testimony and false evidence, in violation of my human rights. Moreover, i was denied constitutionally adequate legal help at all stages of trial, and the jury was rigged against me.

On June 6, 2000 the Indiana Supreme Court rejected my appeal again, which marked the end of my state appeal process. My state appeals had run out. And on August 31, 2000 they set an execution date on me for October 25, 2000. My pro bono attorneys, Michael E. Deutsch and John L. Stainthorp in Chicago, Illinois and Jessie A. Cook in Terre Haute, Indiana took immediate pro-action by vigorously challenging the court's judgment with verified petitions and motions to re-open my case for review. My attorneys also put together a summary of my legal claims for dissemination to the news media, and to anyone else who will help Us! We are trying to have my case reviewed by the state courts again, before going to federal court.

You took notice of what legalized murder is and the barbaric nature of the beast and you responded to Our clarion call for help. Over a thousand people have written letters, e-mails, made telephone calls, and signed petitions and sent them to the court and to the governor of Indiana on my behalf.

On October 12, 2000 the Indiana Supreme Court granted me a stay of execution and they remanded part of my appeal issues to the trial court for an evidentiary hearing concerning perjury of the prosecution witnesses. The court didn't rule on all my alleged legal claims, but at least they didn't deny anything at this juncture. So i will be going back to the Allen County Court, Fort Wayne, Indiana soon. i am asking you to please continue advocating for me; so that the political officials will be aware that concerned people are still watching.

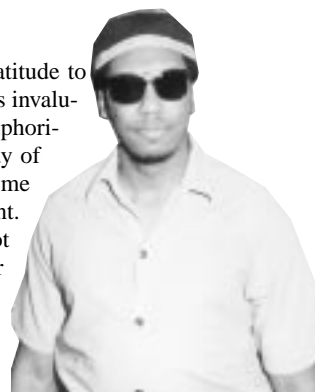
Judges are part and parcel of the state and its bureaucratic machinery. The court cannot be moved by moral suasion because they have no morality where race, class, nationality or creed is the variable. This whole socio-political system is about controlling the economy and controlling surplus labor. Whether a person is guilty or innocent of committing a crime is irrelevant. All that the law in the U.S. require is that the accused receive a fair trial, not a perfect one. They will not listen to me as an individual. They only respect the power of the people, organized in unity. My heart overflows with utmost gratitude to each of the thousand-plus who supported me.

Again, thank you very much! Rebuild to win!

Zolo Agona Azania #4969

Indiana's Death Row, P.O. Box 41

Michigan City, Ind. 46361-0041



The staff of It's About Time offers deepest condolences to comrades Herman Wallace and Marilyn Buck on the recent passing of their mothers. Our thoughts are with you.

NEWSBRIEFS from Page 2

ters. The court ruled that the Fourth Amendment required more specific evidence of wrongdoing.

Finally, the court ruled that police may not squeeze or feel a traveler's bags in a random search for illegal drugs. In that ruling, the court said that a traveler's hard bags are private and off limits to searches, except when an officer has a specific reason to look for drugs.

***London (Reuters) 10-07-00** - Not content with having police dogs bite criminals, law enforcement agencies in the United States have fitted dogs with stun gun muzzles; but what they really wanted was dogs that could both bite and stun criminals. Their wish has come true. Researchers in the United States have developed stun muzzles which can be fired or discarded by radio-control. New Scientist magazine reported that Stunmuzzle of Orange, CA, has patented a quick-release muzzle that also carries a radio-controlled stun gun.

The device allows a police dog to approach criminals and nuzzle up to them. Once the dog locates exposed flesh or thin clothing, a police officer can then activate the stun gun. But if the dog cannot find a suitable place to stun the villain, the police officer can release a latch on the muzzle by remote control allowing the dog to bite the criminal.

***Gatesville, TX** - Guinea Pigs - The federal Office of Human Research Protection (OHRP) recently ordered a halt to 26 experimental drug programs in which 99 Texas prisoners were being used as human guinea pigs. The programs were conducted by the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), the principal health care provider to the Texas prison system...

Federal agents questioned whether prisoners had been properly warned of the risks, whether some experiments were unduly risky, and whether potential benefits were overstated and risks understated to participating prisoners. Most of the 26 projects involved experimental treatments of HIV, AIDS, hepatitis C, and cancer.

***Washington DC** - African-American employees denied promotions in the Education Department won \$4 million from the government to settle a 9-year-old Federal discrimination case. About 1,100 African-American upper level employees filed the class action suit in 1991, saying vague job postings and arbitrary decisions shut them out of top level promotions.

***Ethiopia** - A treaty was signed December 12, 2000, ending the 2-year war between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

***Tallahassee, Fla.** - DNA test clears inmate who died on Death Row. An inmate who died of cancer on death row 11 months ago has been cleared by DNA testing of a 1985 rape and murder charge. Frank Lee Smith died at age 52 after spending 14 years on death row. He would have been executed in 1990, but had won a stay pending legal proceedings.

***Cardenas, Cuba** - Elian Gonzalez and friends celebrated his 7th birthday and enjoyed a visit from Fidel. Elian's father had written a heartfelt thank-you letter to Fidel for his support during their kidnapping ordeal.

***Washington DC** - Hundreds of Howard University students marched through Washington's streets demanding justice for a black classmate killed by a police officer. The case involves a nighttime police operation that began in Maryland and ended in Virginia. Police said Carlton Jones, a corporal in the Prince George's County, Md., police force, driving an unmarked vehicle, followed Prince Jones, 25, into Fairfax County, Va., because the officer believed Jones' Jeep was involved in two earlier incidents in which police cars allegedly were rammed by a similar vehicle.

The man wanted in those incidents has since turned himself in. Carlton Jones said that Prince Jones stopped his SUV and backed more than once into the unmarked car. The officer fired 16 shots at him, and six struck Jones in the back, killing him. Virginia authorities investigated and announced that Carlton Jones would not be charged because he feared for his safety.

Students pushed for a federal investigation. "We believe strongly if it was a white person who had been shot in that county, (the shooter) would have been prosecuted," said Ted Williams, a lawyer representing Prince Jones' family.

***Modesto, CA** - On September 13, Alberto Sepulveda, age 11, was shot and killed in a 6:00am no-knock drug raid conducted by police and federal drug agents in Modesto, California. Police raids are becoming increasingly

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Chronology of Imprisonment: Marshall "Eddie" Conway

MARSHALL "EDDIE" CONWAY was arrested while working at the US Post Office on April 26, 1970.

The previous night, two police officers in a patrol car had been fired upon, one officer was killed and one wounded. Within an hour of the shooting, two suspects were arrested near the scene. A weapon was recovered at the scene. An officer who responded to the crime scene reported seeing a third man "at a distance" near where the two suspects were

found. Eddie Conway's arrest as the third man was the result of a warrant based on information supplied by a never-identified informant.

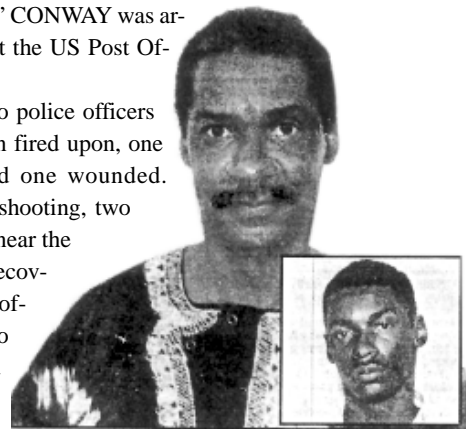
These charges came at a time when there was considerable media attention focused on the Baltimore BPP. This included front-page coverage of the indictments of this case and a mass arrest of the Baltimore Panthers for the purported torture/murder of an informant who participated in chapter activities. In the trial following the mass arrest, prosecution witnesses were both contradictory and not credible to the jury. The first defendant charged with the torture/murder and conspiracy was acquitted after just 2 1/2 hours. None of the remaining cases were ever tried, and all those arrested were released.

The FBI surveillance of Eddie and the BPP had begun before these events and were part of Eddie Conway's FBI files, secured through the Freedom of Information Act. The files included letters to the Postal Inspector indicating that Eddie was under constant surveillance and investigation and information that the Baltimore chapter had been infiltrated by government agents and informants.

Eddie Conway was never linked by any physical evidence to the crime scene or weapons. He maintained his innocence at the trial, and continues to do so. At his trial, the prosecution relied on the testimony of an informant who had been placed in Eddie's cell under suspicious circumstances and against his written protests to the guards. It was to this informant that Eddie supposedly confessed. Such use of informants was common knowledge to all BPP members. The informant, Charles Reynolds, was inexplicably transferred to Eddie's cell in the Baltimore City Jail from a Maryland prison. He was later brought back from a Detroit jail to testify at the trial.

During the trial, Eddie was denied an attorney of his choice or the right to represent himself. Only the court-appointed lawyer was allowed to question witnesses. That lawyer spent only 45 minutes prior to trial with his client, and during the trial often appeared intoxicated. Prior to their selection, the jurors had been exposed to weeks of inflammatory media coverage of the Black Panthers. Pervasive negative media attention has since been authoritatively attributed to the FBI's Counter Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO) as part of their intention of destroying the Black Panther Party. Eddie Conway was convicted and sentenced to life in prison. He has been incarcerated since April 1970.

For further information visit the website: ecstruggle.com, call 410-882-1038 or e-mail: ur_sister@mailcity.com.



A Visit with Political Prisoners Linda Evans and Marilyn Buck

By Staajabu

VISITING LINDA EVANS was something I needed to do. I felt compelled to connect with her, though going to FCI Dublin, the Federal Women's Prison in Dublin CA, was more than a notion. I had to get permission from the administration which took months, then arrange the visit date and time and make arrangements to get there. Having visited many prisons in the past, the drill was not new to me. However, I am always unprepared for the many rules and restrictions a prison visit imposes on the visitor as well as the inmate.

FCI Dublin is located on the grounds of an Army installation, called Camp Parks. These nicey-nice names grate on your nerves as you pass by the fences and razor-wire. Brother Tony Britto traveled with me to visit Marilyn Buck. The inmates are being counted and will not be available until the count is finished. The guard checks our credentials and runs our names through the necessary computers.

A phone call informs the desk that we may now proceed. The parade through the metal detector begins. No matter how many times I do this, there is a sense of anxiety and fear, knowing that for the slightest infraction, real or imagined, we can be turned away. Will they deny me at the last minute after renting a car, leaving home at 5:30 am, driving for two hours through dense fog, then waiting for an hour? No. I emerge from the metal detector unscathed, my name clears the computer and we are among the fortunate who will be allowed to enter.

Greeting my sister in struggle, Marilyn Buck feels real good. She looks well. We have not been in touch before face to face, only through mail. I like her right away. We have a short pleasant exchange. She and Tony must sit away from us, she explains. Linda enters and yes! We are old friends reunited. I've missed her and she likewise. There are the usual questions about relatives and friends we know in common. There are moments when we verge on tears, we are so glad to see each other. She knows what a hellacious schedule I have and what I've been through to get here. Once we get through the inquiries of family and friends, we really get down. We talk about everything. We sit inside and watch the little children play in the nursery. We sit outside and enjoy the sun and breezes. The women are all dressed in khaki. A guard sits on a high platform checking everybody out. The room is buzzing with families sharing stories. Friends and lovers of all races fill the room with warmth and caring.

Linda Evans is an amazing woman, who since 1985 has been incarcerated for daring to go against the system. She is an average looking person, average height and weight, but she has a brilliant smile and intelligent eyes that speak volumes. Her eyes search mine for honesty. Her gaze is sincere but not probing. Her sense of humor is high and we spend a lot of time cracking each other up.

We talk for four straight hours and we are still talking when the guard announces the end of the visit. It is a sad time. Hugs, kisses, words of encouragement, and the closing of doors and gates that separate us. The drive home is quiet and thoughtful. We will schedule another visit soon, share another meal from the vending machines, and continue our discussion of all the things that make and keep us human.

We must not forget our friends and family in jails all over this nation.

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Missouri Department of Corrections And Human Resource Centers

By Andugu Rajah Adero-Glass - excerpts from *Off The Hook*
Newsletter, Vol. 2

THIS IS WHAT I call the Missouri Penal System. Human Resource is the main and only focus...Definition: Human - relating to people. Resource - a supply that can be drawn upon available capital, assets. In essence, Human Resource simply means: Prisoners are a supply that can be drawn upon and bring in available capital as well as being a stored asset of State.

As prisoners, we are forced into labor (slavery), saving the state of Missouri millions of dollars each year. Every prison job prisoners perform is a job free world citizens could have. These jobs range from food services to factory workers to yard crews to maintenance crews. There are other jobs done by prison laborers (slaves) as well. These jobs are compensated at below sweatshop wages. Mere pennies are paid for them. The lowest wage is \$5.00 a month; the highest is \$85 a month. If the state of Missouri had to employ citizens for each position prisoners hold, the state would have to pay a minimum job wage or union wages with full benefits of health, life, dental and family insurance coverage, along with 401(k) packages. The state is saving millions upon millions off of the labor (slavery) of prisoners.

The state of Missouri is in contract deals with many businesses, companies and corporations. It is getting kickbacks of thousands, and millions from these contract deals, money that is being placed within the state's General Revenue Division. Why is that? Greed and robbery. Many of us have children whose mothers have to rely upon the state and federal aid since their men and husbands are in prison. Missouri can use the millions of dollars they save (rob) and receive from kickbacks and set up a system that essentially finances and supports our wives and children by our labor (slavery) in prison.

Missouri's lowest wage pays per month for state employees \$1,822, or \$21,864 a year. If Missouri had to employ 1,200 men and women to do the jobs prisoners do, it would have to pay out \$26,236,800 a year, plus full benefits. That's based only on Missouri State worker's minimum wages. As you know, some jobs and positions pay more per hour. Missouri could allocate a percentage of that money to each of our children or families on state or federal aid, saving taxpayers millions of dollars. That sum is not counting the money Missouri makes from kickbacks from companies and corporations such as Kellogg's, Keefe, Proctor and Gamble, Hostess, Dial Corps, Frito Lay, MCI, Panasonic, Zenith and others. The bigger picture: there are a total of 18 operating prisons at this time in Missouri with two more opening within the next year. Take \$26,236,800 and multiply that by 18 - that's \$472,262,400 a year savings for Missouri.

I would like to put together an economic package that would show the state and federal governments and citizens that money can be saved by taxpayers by using the Human Resource funds to support our children and wives. The proposal would be sent to each state senator, congressperson, mayors of large cities, State and Federal Social Service Departments as well as to welfare activist organizations and other organizations that are for the people. If any one has any ideas, suggestions, or informational sources I could use to help me develop this proposal, please get with me. I'd very much appreciate it.

Andugu Rajah Adero-Glass #3162144

Crossroads Correctional Center

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It's About Time...

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GW BUSH AND THE BI-PARTISANISM HUSTLE

By Robert Lederman

"I'M A UNITER NOT A DIVIDER." "Bush will reach across the aisle." "He's known for being bi-partisan." What do these statements mean in non-propaganda terms?

The corporate bosses of both the Republican and Democratic parties just spent a combined total of close to one billion dollars on a fake election and understandably want the results they paid for. Therefore, Congress will indeed cooperate under President Bush to pass legislation. This legislation will be as hopelessly complex and indecipherable for the average person to understand as the Supreme Court ruling that just made Bush President. The American people will as usual be forced to rely on politicians and the corporate media to mis-explain it to them.

Like a Trojan Horse it will appear to be the partial fulfillment of the desire for election reform, better education, saving social security, prescription drug price controls and tax relief. In reality, attached to each of these pieces of legislation will be hidden benefits for the largest corporations in the world and hidden clauses that will remove basic individual rights we have all come to take for granted.

Republicans point to Texas as the example of what bi-partisan Bush will do in the White House. Yes, it is true that he was able to reach across the aisle in Texas. What he and the Texas legislature accomplished was a dramatic increase in executions, the saturation of communities with toxic and ineffective pesticides, the worst public school education system in the US, deregulation of industries leading to the worst air pollution in North America and the privatization of schools, hospitals, prisons and most social services. Welfare was not ended, just shifted from needy people to corporations. The Bush family and their circle of business friends were the number one beneficiaries of these bi-partisan legislative efforts.

It is an unfortunate and obvious reality that almost none of our elected officials in either major party are actually trying to help the American people in any way. Their efforts are solely about convincing the public that they care about social issues while doing everything they can to advance the interests of their real constituents- the mega-wealthy corporations that paid to put them in office. In the case of someone like Dick Cheney, he is both the corporation and the politician-a right hand blatantly working with his own left hand to fleece the American public.

It's A Family Affair....Like one big happy (crime) family, GW and Co. will indeed reach across the aisle to guarantee that the New World Order progresses as scheduled. It is after all his family business. Loyalty to family is at the heart of Team Bush with GW nicely illustrating the darker side of family values. His dad, former CIA director George Bush, was President just eight years ago. A lifetime spent as a Rockefeller toady cultivating both open and covert contacts with intelligence agencies, organized crime figures, third world dictators, oil cartels, drug lords and the New World Order made our new President Dumbya possible.

Despite tracing their family tree directly to the Queen of England, former President Bush and his Governor sons owe their wealth, political clout and social prestige to the hard work of grandfather and former US Senator Prescott Bush and to Prescott's father-in-law, Herbert Walker. Both men made fortunes on Wall Street by working as front men for Nazi-owned shipping companies managed by the firm Brown Brothers Harriman. They were key figures in establishing what Hitler and Wall Street hoped would be the financial pillar of the American wing of world fascism.

The Bush family also has a long association with the pseudo-science of Eugenics, or population control, which reached its fullest expression in Nazi Germany. Hitler publicly acknowledged that he got many of his ideas for racial cleansing from the American Eugenics movement, which by the beginning of WWII had passed laws mandating sterilization of so-called social undesirables in more than 25 states. The Harriman fortune (they were partners with Prescott Bush on Wall Street) financed the American Eugenics movement starting in Cold Springs Harbor NY, which is both the origin and present headquarters of the current Human Genome Project. This population-control and culling project disguised as a humanitarian health endeavor today includes such corporate activities as patenting, manipulating and altering the human genetic code, introducing untested vaccines into the food supply and selectively genetically engineering,

manipulating or exterminating all life forms on earth.

Professing to be a born-again Christian, President GW Bush will give a green light to the re-direction of evolution by the medical and pharmaceutical establishment. Wearing his religion like a Hollywood special effect intended to dazzle us all into a warm and fuzzy stupor, the man who calls Jesus his favorite philosopher (next to the Manhattan Institute's Myron Magnet) and who declared Jesus Day in Texas has been slated to preside over the destruction of God's creation. Among the many hats he was worn, former President Bush was at one time President of Eli Lilly, the giant pharmaceutical company. Under a GW Bush administration, the American people will move that much closer to living the reality of factory bred farm animals. We are becoming a nation of Perdue chickens, barely able to function or reproduce without the intervention of so-called science.

While GW was made Governor of oil-based Texas, aka the execution capital of the world, brother Jeb serves the nation as Governor of Florida, the cocaine-fueled State whose corrupt, utterly defective and blatantly racist electoral system threw the Presidency to GW. When organizing a coup, it helps to have dependable family connections everywhere. Cousin John Ellis is a Fox News executive who stampeded the TV networks into falsely announcing GW winning on November 7th after numerous frantic phone conversations with various Bush family members, including GW. Florida Secretary of State, Katherine Harris, who declared Bush the winner despite him actually losing both the popular US vote and the Florida vote, campaigned with and is alleged by some insiders in Florida and members of the media to be having a long-running affair with President-elect Bush. Harris was instrumental to the process of keeping tens of thousands of votes for Al Gore from ever being counted.

Of the five US Supreme Court justices who stopped the recount and ultimately ruled against counting the votes at all, two have blatant conflicts of interest involving the Bush family and their own family members. Justice Scalia has not one but two sons working for law firms directly involved in the lawsuits on behalf of Bush. He is known to have commented that if Gore won the election, he would resign from the court because he would never be able to be appointed chief justice. The wife of Justice Thomas works for the Heritage Foundation, this nation's most infamous far right think tank, which has been a key strategic advisor and funding source for Bush throughout the campaign. She is also, just incidentally, working on the Bush transition team. Justice Thomas was appointed to the Supreme Court by GW's dad. What candidate wouldn't want to face a judge who owed his job to their dad and whose wife works for their campaign?

For technical advice, or thought processes generally, GW leans rather heavily on his father's former top aides, Cheney and Baker. Uncle Dick and Uncle Jim will be the real Presidents of the United States with GW acting as a sort of game show MC presenting their work product to the American people. Though not blood relatives, these two Bush consiglieres have helped the Bush family pull off some of its best and most profitable capers. They are very trusted "family" in the Mafia sense.

The Bush family and its associates have a long history of involvement in massive banking rip-offs, defrauding the public and Congress, political assassinations, covert operations designed to destabilize governments, sale and proliferation of chemical and biological warfare armaments, rigged third world elections and arranging profitable endeavors-like the Gulf War-on behalf of their favorite oil companies and military suppliers. Cheney's company, Halliburton and its subsidiary Brown & Root, just happen to be among the largest military supply companies in the world. They hold numerous fat Pentagon contracts which directly depend on the U.S. involving itself in future wars.

The oxymoronic theme of President-elect Bush's campaign-Compassionate Conservatism-was invented by CIA mind-control experts at the Manhattan Institute, a right-wing think tank in NYC started by former CIA director William Casey. GW has publicly acknowledged this as has the 6/12/2000 NY Times and the 4/16/2000 Dallas Morning News. Casey conveniently died before being forced to testify before Congress on the Iran-Contra scandal. His expected testimony would have implicated then Vice President Bush even more than President Reagan or Oliver North in

the Iran-Contra cocaine/arms dealing affair.

Aside from supplying all of the most controversial ideas behind the administration of racist First Amendment-trashing NYC Mayor Rudy Giuliani, the Manhattan Institute is best known as the former sponsor of Charles Murray, author of the Bell Curve. Murray won acclaim from racist elements on the far right for his books advocating the end of both welfare and affirmative action based on the notion that African Americans are genetically inferior in IQ. Giuliani has used the ideas behind the Bell Curve and another Manhattan Institute favorite-Fixing Broken Windows-to fashion the largest and most racially biased false arrest, homeless and welfare policies in U.S. history.

Not incidentally, Casey worked closely with Allen Dulles to bring former top-level Nazis involved in the Holocaust and Eugenics to the US following WWII and installing them in the business, medical and intelligence sectors of the US government. Some of these former Nazis later became a key, and at times very embarrassing, part of George Bush senior's Presidential campaign (see numerous Washington Post articles during September of 1988).

Dulles was both a close Wall Street associate of Bush grandfather Prescott and the legal counsel for Rockefeller subsidiaries Standard Oil and I.G. Farben-two multi-national sister companies that were instrumental in establishing the technological and military power of the Third Reich. He was later appointed the first director of the CIA-an agency with a long history of and expertise in fixing elections.

As we contemplate a Dumbya Bush Presidency, let us pause to give thanks to the entire Bush dynasty. They have given us all a special Xmas present for the new millennium. Thanks to their efforts we now have an illegitimate President, a tainted US Supreme Court, a total loss of confidence in the idea of our voting procedures, millions of disenfranchised voters who were duped, excluded and obstructed during this election, a President more interested in barbecues than policy and a fractious political divide between Americans that could lead to another civil war. Our politicians, many of whom have based their careers on blasting foreign governments for not holding free and fair elections, are now the laughing stock of the world.

After the inauguration, America can and should immediately begin the process of impeaching this phony and restoring at least a semblance of democracy. To his resume as a fake college student, AWOL air force pilot, fake businessman, fake baseball team owner and fake Governor, our Executioner-in-Chief can now add fake President. Before starting his first day on the job, GW comes to the White House with far more scandals than the Clintons have been accused of in their entire lifetime. For a more detailed expose' of GW's scandalous past see *Shrub, The Short But Happy Political Life of George W. Bush*, by Molly Ivins and Lou Dubose.

VISIT from Page 5

I felt honored that I was able to spend some time in jail today with these women and look forward to the next visit. Stay strong Linda, stay strong Marilyn, stay strong y'all.

NOTE: Linda Evans is an anti-imperialist political prisoner who organized to protest the Vietnam War and for grassroots organizations fighting against the KKK, forced sterilization, racism and white supremacy. Locked down since May 11, 1985, on numerous weapons charges, Linda is serving a 40-year sentence at FCI Dublin. She has been active in the lesbian and women's communities leading efforts for AIDS education and inmate advocacy. She made a quilt (the Mumia Quilt) to help raise funds for the Campaign to save the life of Death Row political prisoner, Mumia Abu-Jamal. She is listed by Amnesty International as a political prisoner. To write: Linda Evans, 19973-054/Unit A, 5701 8th St., Camp Parks, Dublin, CA 94568.

Marilyn Buck, also locked down at FCI Dublin, was recaptured in 1985 after being underground. She was convicted of conspiracy for the successful liberation of Assata Shakur from a New Jersey prison and conspiracy to commit armed bank robbery in support of the New Afrikan independence struggle. She has been in prison for 17 years with a total sentence of 80 years. She is a poet, activist, artist, and is also on Amnesty International's list of political prisoners. To write: Marilyn Buck 00482-285, Unit B, 5701 8th Street, Camp Parks, Dublin, CA 94568.

For more information on political prisoners, www.prisonactivist.org

IT'S ABOUT TIME - 35th Year Black Panther Party Reunion October 11-14, Washington DC

THE IT'S ABOUT TIME COMMITTEE is committed to hosting an inclusive, non-sectarian, memorable event that celebrates the founding principles, platform, and programs of the Black Panther Party (BPP). We will commemorate the historic legacies of the BPP as well as the many sacrifices and constructive contributions that all of us made while serving the people body and soul.

As we approach the 35th anniversary of the Black Panther Party's founding, not only do we have the opportunity to celebrate, we have the responsibility to place our own experiences into historical context. We have the privilege and obligation to acknowledge the support of our elders, friends and families during those turbulent times and we must commemorate the sacrifices of those who fell in body and in spirit to the prevailing internal and external forces of those times; especially our political prisoners.

After 27 years of court battles, we recently celebrated the release of our comrade geronimo ji jaga from Amerika's gulag. During the course of that struggle, information about the FBI's COINTELPRO program of dirty tricks and blatant set-ups came to light. This has been the focus of recent Congressional Black Caucus hearings, sponsored by Cynthia McKinney. We must rededicate ourselves to the struggle to seek justice for the many other victims of COINTELPRO who continue to suffer behind bars, and all political prisoners. We will have our own hearings on Cointelpro and look into the possibility of a class action lawsuit.

Unless we former members do otherwise, the legacy of the BPP will be rendered moot - largely ignored, dismissed and distorted by today's commentators and tomorrow's historians. We need to tell our stories and the stories of those of us who we lost or remain imprisoned.

Those of us who continue to struggle for justice in our communities need to come together as a unified force. We must get beyond the divisions, orchestrated by the COINTELPRO forces, among others, to render us ineffective or destroy us as a viable movement.

Let us come together to celebrate our contributions to the Black Liberation Struggle, to the struggle for all peoples for justice and humanity, to preserve our history, set an example for today's youth, and to Unite in our dedication to seeking justice for our political prisoners - It's About Time!

For more information: It's About Time, PO Box 221100, Sacramento CA 95822, (916) 455-0908, www.itsabouttimebpp.com, e-mail: itsabouttime3@juno.com



NEWS BRIEFS from Page 4

common and are often initiated based on tips of unidentified government informants. Often the victims of these raids have no involvement in the manufacture, sale or use of illegal drugs. It can happen to anyone.

***Boston, MA** - On March 25 of this year, 13 heavily armed Boston police wearing fatigue outfits smashed into the apartment of a 75-year-old retired minister, the Reverend Accelynne Williams. Williams ran into his bedroom when the raid began, but police smashed down the bedroom door, shoved Williams to the floor and handcuffed him. Williams may have had up to a dozen guns pointed at his head during the scuffle. Minutes later, Williams died of a heart attack. No drugs or guns were found in Williams' apartment. The police had carried out the raid based on a tip from an unidentified informant who said that there were guns and drugs in the building but did not give a specific apartment number. The press coverage made the event look like an isolated tragedy in the war on drugs. It was not!!

See NEWS BRIEFS on Page 10

Why We Need A Bus To Prison Program

IT IS CLEAR that Houston and the surrounding areas need a program that will help loved ones visit those who are incarcerated. With over 150,000 inmates in the Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice, these are some of the reasons why:

1. Our brothers and sisters need to know that people still love them. When an inmate feels that nobody cares for them and they get released, they are more likely to go back to their old lifestyles.

2. Inmates are less likely to be victims of abuse by guards when the guards know that people in the "free world" are coming to check on them.

3. An inmate who maintains regular contact with friends or family on the outside is more likely to become a productive member of the community on their release.

The Bus to Prison Program has gone to Gatesville, Huntsville, Beaumont, Tennessee Colony, Boyd and the Dayton Women's Unit. Often prisoners are far away from their communities and their families do not have the resources to get there. This program helps keep families close and change lives. With additional funds we could expand our services and meet a critical need in our community.

For More Information: All Power to the People Foundation
7967 West Airport, Houston, TX 77071 • (713) 729-2267

Report on the 1st Intercommunal Conference on Reparations for Africans, African-Americans and Indigenous People

(Sponsored by the New Panther Vanguard Movement)

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL Conference for Reparations for Africans, African-Americans and Indigenous People was held at Compton Community College on October 14, 2000. It was a resounding success. Nearly 300 people attended throughout the five hour activity; some were well known community activists who came to hear David DuBois; there were quite a few students present, but most were ordinary folks from the community, young and old, wanting to learn more about reparations and how to support the growing Reparations Movement.

New Panther Vanguard Movement Chairman and Conference Organizer, B. Kwaku Duren, set the tone for this event by explaining the need for an "intercommunal" approach and by stressing the importance of organizing a strategic "intercommunal reparations alliance" between Africans, African-Americans and Indigenous Peoples.

A "highlight" of the conference was the presentation by Olin Tezcatlipoca from the Mexica Movement, who spoke at length about the brutal treatment of the original peoples in the so-called "Americas," the total destruction of their culture and way-of-life, and the modern-day legacy of this "untold story," which he believes is reflected in the "self-hate" of so-called "Hispanics" or "Latinos/Latinas" who continue to identify with their "Spanish-language" oppressors (sound familiar?).

David Dubois, internationally known journalist, and former Editor-in-Chief of the original Black Panther Newspaper, spoke passionately and eloquently about the need for African-Americans to be more informed and involved in issues like the reparations movement, and why it was still critically important to link the struggle for African-American reparations to the issue of "Debt Relief" for African nations. David also spoke about the exploitative role of so-called international financial institutions, like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The live performances from rap artists La Paz and D-Dash were inspiring and showed the revolutionary side of rap. During several dialogue sessions many participants asked questions, expressed their views and helped formulate resolutions.



Police Brutality in Kalamazoo, MI

By JoNina M. Abron

ON MONDAY, KALAMAZOO Gazette reporter Mike Tyree interviewed me for a year-end story he's doing on Beryl Wilson. For those who are not familiar with Beryl, he is the African-American man who was jailed naked in Kalamazoo's city jail in September, 1999, after protesting his arrest in a racial profiling traffic stop. Tyree did a story on Beryl, and as a result, several other Black men in Kalamazoo who had been jailed naked or partially clothed came forward with their stories. Beryl and several of these men subsequently filed a federal civil rights lawsuit against the city of Kalamazoo and the public safety department.

Tyree told me that Beryl lost his factory job, his new marriage failed, and that up until sometime in October, he was homeless and living downtown in the Gospel Mission while saving money for an apartment. According to Tyree, Beryl is missing. His attorneys and acquaintances haven't seen or talked to him in nearly two months.

As if this isn't enough, Tyree said a bench warrant has been issued for Beryl's arrest. In August, Beryl was convicted for interfering with Officer John Garwood, who arrested Beryl in September 1999 for allegedly having a broken tail light on this car. Upon conviction, Beryl was ordered to pay a fine of \$200. He hasn't paid the fine, Tyree said, and that's why a bench warrant for Beryl's arrest has been issued.

More bad news for Beryl is that the federal judge assigned to the civil rights lawsuit that he and the other Black men filed against the city has dismissed the lawsuit, according to an op ed piece recently published in the Gazette by an attorney representing the city and/or Garwood.

It took tremendous courage for Beryl Wilson to go public with the story of his naked jailing, to speak out about the police brutality that he suffered. But because he spoke out, he gave other Black men who had similar experiences the courage to come forward with their own accounts of racial profiling. The outrage of the community over the naked jailings led the Black Autonomy Network of Community Organizers (BANCO) to create the Southwest Michigan Coalition Against Racism and Police Brutality. The coalition's march and protest at city hall on April 8, 2000, at which Beryl Wilson spoke and over 100 people participated, forced the Kalamazoo Public Safety Department to examine arrest procedures, jail policies, racial profiling, etc. It also forced City Manager Pat DiGiovanni to create the Police-Community Relations Task Force. I remain critical of the task force for its secret proceedings and the failure of its final report to make any substantive recommendations for community control of the police in Kalamazoo. However, the fact that a task force was even created can be attributed to the community's outrage over the police brutality committed against Beryl Wilson and the other Black men who were jailed naked or partially clothed.

Beryl Wilson's courage to speak out against police brutality and racial profiling in Kalamazoo has cost him dearly in terms of the present circumstances of his personal life. This is often the case for people who dare to criticize and organize against police misconduct in America. We cannot repair Beryl's personal life, but we can lift at least one burden for him - the \$200 bench warrant for his arrest. We can easily raise this money if 20 people will give \$10 apiece. Once the money is raised, I am willing to take it to whatever office/department in the city that should receive it. If we raise more than \$200, I am willing to do all that I can to find a reliable way to get the money to Beryl.

Please make your check or money order payable to BANCO, with a note that it is for Beryl Wilson, and mail it ASAP to P.O. Box 19962, Kalamazoo, MI 49019. Let's show Beryl Wilson that there are people in Kalamazoo who appreciate the personal sacrifices he has made to help stop racial profiling and police brutality in this city.

New Houston, Texas Locations for "It's About Time"

S.H.A.P.E. Community Center
3903 Alameda Rd * 77004
(713) 521-0629

Pyramid Shop
3505 Crawford * 77004
(713) 807-9981

S.H.A.P.E. Community Center
3815 Live Oak * 77004
(713) 521-0641

Shrine of the Black Madonna
5309 M.L. King Blvd. * 77021
(713) 645-1071 or 645-1160

Federal Bureau of Prisons Misleads About Racial Numbers

By Glenn Wright

IT'S NO SECRET to those of us locked up that the number of minorities far exceeds the number of white inmates, we see it each day. Even those on the streets can see the flood of black and brown men and women that fill the courtrooms across the country each day. Yet, we seldom hear about this disparity in the mainstream press. While some of the blame for this lies with the white corporate run news media, the Federal Bureau of Prisons has continued to lie to the nation about the racial disparity by playing the numbers game, listing more inmates as white than actually should be.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) distributes a quarterly information sheet entitled "Quick Facts" (1), to the press and public, which includes the statistics for how many inmates are incarcerated by race, and the number of staff members also by race. It also includes stats on security levels, gender, and ethnicity, among other categories.

The most recent Quick Facts, last updated in April 2000, shows that the number of "white" inmates far exceeds that of "black" inmates. This is very misleading, and is taken out of context by many in the news media and general public alike. According to the BOP, 57.8% of the inmates are white. But a closer look at these lies reveals a much different story. Under the race category the BOP fails to list any Hispanics, instead choosing to have them listed under ethnicity only, and including their numbers in the "white" grouping. With the large number of Hispanics being locked away, one should ask, "Where are the Hispanics in the BOP?"

The real numbers tell another story. According to the actual numbers, not percentages, given by the BOP there are approximately 142,000 inmates in the system. Of these, 54,515 (38.9%) are "black", 44,575 (31.8%) are the missing Hispanics, and only 36,281 (25.9%) are white; while Asians and Native Americans make up the remainder. The BOP has made every attempt to mislead the readers and press, simply so the truth will not be told.

Make no mistake about it, the BOP is a white run slave colony, and the masters do not want you to confuse them with any other race. Under the staff heading in the Quick Facts, the race of the staff is separated out into the following categories and totals: White (non-Hispanic) 20,616 (65.8%), African American 6,370 (20.3%), and Hispanic 3,268 (10.4%). If you notice, when it comes to the staff, they are "African American", but the inmates are "Black". One staff member claims this was because the "union wants the BOP to be politically correct, when it comes to the staff".

Don't look for this widespread imprisonment of minorities to end anytime soon. The President's FY2001 Drug Control Strategy Budget, for the area of "supply reduction" alone, calls for \$420 million to be used to build 17 new prisons over the next few years. These are prisons that will be filled with "drug prosecutions and immigration cases", in other words the poor, the people of color, and the minorities who came to discover the Amerikkkan dream. The full text of this plan for the kidnapping of minorities can be read in the "FY2001 Drug Control Strategy Budget" (2) available on the web, or by mail.

As long as the system allows the widespread imprisonment of the minorities, and continues to skew the numbers of the people they hold hostage, the public will never know the truth. We must all work together to get this information out to our people, and into the news media. We cannot sit by quietly and say nothing while the United Snakes government lies to the people. We all must write to the BOP (3) and ask them why they don't consider the Hispanic inmates a race, but they do consider the Hispanic staff a race of people. We must ask them why inmates are Black, while staff are African American. We must ask them when they'll release to the public the real numbers of those behind the fences.

(1) Federal Bureau of Prisons Quick Facts, April 2000, www.bop.gov/fact0598.html

(2) "National Drug Control Strategy, FY2001 Budget Summary", Pg. 5, 121-124, Office of National Drug Control Policy, P.O. Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20849-6000. <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>

(3) Kathleen Hawk-Sawyer, Federal Bureau of Prisons, 320 First St., NW, Washington, DC 20534, (202) 514-2000, www.bop.gov

Prison Sued Over Medical Studies

By MaryClaire Dale (excerpts-Philadelphia-AP)

ALLEN HORNBUM'S FIRST job out of graduate school in 1971 was teaching literacy at Philadelphia's Holmesburg Prison. Inside the imposing walls, he says he was shocked to see dozens of inmates with adhesive tape on their faces, arms and backs. At first he thought, "A knife fight", but he soon learned that the bandages betrayed 23 years of widespread medical experiments inside the city-run prison.

Hornblum's 1998 book, "Acres of Skin," explored the physical and psychological effects of the testing and inspired a lawsuit filed this week in Philadelphia on behalf of 298 former inmates. The lawsuit claims the testing exposed the inmates to infectious diseases, radiation, dioxin and psychotropic drugs - all without their informed consent. It names as defendants the city of Philadelphia; Dr. Albert Kligman, a University of Pennsylvania dermatologist who conducted much of the research and is credited with developing the acne and anti-wrinkle treatment Retin A; the university; and drug makers Johnson & Johnson and the Dow Chemical Co., whose products were allegedly used on inmates.

Using inmates for testing was common practice during the 1950's and 1960's, but it is now frowned on by the university, University of Pennsylvania spokeswoman Rebecca Harmon said. While medical testing took place in other prisons, Holmesburg was well-known among scientists because of Kligman's research and because of the prison's willingness to have its inmates tested in exchange for annual fees in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, Hornblum said.

Most of the inmates involved were black men and relatively uneducated. "There are men who do have cancer, severe lung problems, all sorts of maladies," Hornblum said, "I am not a doctor, so I can't confirm that there is a direct linkage. You need to have some serious epidemiological studies, but no one has ever been interested."

The inmates' attorney, Thomas Nocella, said the inmates received only a dollar to two a day to be used as subjects for lucrative commercial product testing. Since they did not know what drugs they were being given, they could not have given informed consent, even if they signed waivers, he said. "As human beings, they want an apology for being treated the way they were treated back then. Secondly, they want some kind of assurance that medical treatment will be available to them," Nocella said. The lawsuit, filed in Philadelphia Common Pleas Court, seeks \$50,000 in damages from each defendant.

Letters to the Editor:

Billy X,

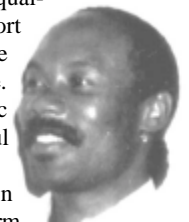
I just received the latest It's About Time... The quality, content and number of pages is growing. I support your purpose and I support your effort - I see where you visited with Georgia Jackson - Mother of George. I often think about that family who lost 2 charismatic sons to the struggle. It's good you were thoughtful enough to pay your respects.

There needs to be a coalition put together in Northern Cali - also include progressives, prison reformers, ACLU types and coordinate with the people in Los Angeles. Such a coalition should also demand Davis appoint someone from among the coalition to the \$100,000 per year positions on the Board of Prison Terms! The people whose vote helped elect him as governor.

We've just been taught a lesson in civics - every vote does count - now that people of color are the majority in Cali, what are we going to do? Continue to complain and not do a damn thing?!

The Free Busing Program in Texas (and wherever it's implemented) can be used as an organizing tool - register people to vote - educate people on the issues - get prisoners to donate one dollar - pack of cigarettes - 3 stamps - \$1 X 160,000, 4 times a year - we can finance our programs.

The People Are The Power!
One Love! Chip



THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOLIDARITY WITH CUBA

Havana, Cuba - November 2000

MEMBERS OF IT'S ABOUT TIME attended the Second International Conference in Solidarity with Cuba, as part of an 89 person delegation put together by the International Action Center in San Francisco.



Billy X and Gail Shaw at conference in Cuba

The conference was attended by 4664 delegates from 118 countries. The spirit of international solidarity was overwhelming. It was like being in the United Nations. The conference focused on ways to fight against the U.S. Blockade of Cuba, the achievements of the Cuban Revolution and the inspiration of the Cuban Revolution to other countries fighting for independence.

We were able to make direct contact with many organizations throughout the world, including FRELIMO, ANC, SWAPO, PLO and many others. Our newsletter was enthusiastically received by all. Many people were knowledgeable about Black Panther Party history and were glad to see the promotion of the Party's legacy. The conference presented us with an ideal opportunity to network with progressive groups throughout the world.

The conference included speeches from major Cuban leaders, workshops to address means of fighting the blockade, combating disinformation about Cuba and how to build the solidarity movement worldwide. General Resolutions adopted by the delegates include:

1. Declare 2001 the "Year of International Solidarity against the Blockade."
2. Ratify October 10, the World Day of Solidarity with Cuba, with demonstrations to be held at US embassies throughout the world.
3. Confront with truth and reason the lies and slander against the Cuban Revolution making full use of the internet.

There was a demonstration of the delegates and the Cuban people in front of the US Interests Section to protest the blockade. Over 600 North American delegates were part of the crowd of over 10,000.



Lucius Walker of Pastors for Peace gave a moving keynote address.

The highlight of the closing session was the presence and speech of Fidel Castro, who gave an historical account of the economic and social impact of the blockade. He also explained various economic development plans and joint ventures with other countries which help to counteract the effects of the blockade.

After the conference we spent several days traveling and meeting the proud people of Cuba. We visited housing projects, the medical school,



a hospital, factory, neighborhood associations, and museums. We were deeply impressed by the achievements of the Cuban Revolution despite the blockade to provide its citizens with housing, healthcare, education, jobs,

See CUBA on Page 12

NEWS BRIEFS from Page 7

***Reno, NV** - Five skinheads were sentenced up to 15 years in prison for attempting to firebomb a Jewish Temple.

***Truckee, CA** - Fourteen women who were the victims of sexual misconduct by a jail worker will be paid nearly \$1 million to settle their complaints. The 14 women were inmates where Bobby Rutledge worked in 1997. Charges include rape, sexual battery, indecent exposure and unlawful strip searches. Rutledge was sentenced to 7 years in prison.

***Sacramento, CA** - Last September, members of a largely African-American crowd leaving the State Fair complained that mounted police overdid it in trying to move people to the parking lot. The police on horseback pushed and herded young people like animals. A committee was set up to address the complaints and help prevent a recurrence.

***Montgomery, AL** - Troy State University has named its library and museum after Rosa Parks, who attended the dedication service. Ms. Parks was at the heart of the Montgomery bus boycott 45 years ago.

***Los Angeles, CA** - Although the first three police officers were convicted Nov. 15 of conspiracy and perjury for framing gang members during their 1996 arrests in the Ramparts police scandal, a judge has overturned the convictions. Another example of the system of injustice!

***Texas** - Texas sets the record with 38 executions this year. They beat their own record of 37 in 1997.

***Atlanta, GA** - Hosea Williams dies of cancer at age 74. He was a lieutenant to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and was at the forefront of the civil rights struggle for more than three decades. He was the chief organizer of King's marches and demonstrations. He helped lead the "Bloody Sunday" march in Selma, Alabama in 1965 and was at the Memphis Tenn. Motel where Dr. King was assassinated in 1968.

***Toronto, Canada** - Aisha Angela Taylor and Bankole Irungu have had their refugee status denied. Both are African Americans who have been active in the Black self-determination movement since the 1970's. After years of Cointelpro-style harassment, they came to Canada in 1998, applying for refugee status. Their claim was denied in Feb. 2000 and now their appeal was denied giving them a three week departure order.

***New Orleans, LA** - Wilbert Rideau, a crusading jailhouse journalist got his murder conviction thrown out by a federal appeals court after nearly 40 years in prison. A three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously ruled that African Americans were improperly excluded from the grand jury that indicted him in the 1961 slaying of a white bank teller. The court ruled that Rideau must either be retried or set free. In 1976, Rideau was named editor of the "Angolite" and transformed it from a mimeographed prison newsletter into a slick magazine that has won a string of awards.

IN MEMORY OF...

JODY WEAVER joined the party in Detroit, Michigan then came out to California and worked on the Bobby Seale for Mayor campaign.

Jody also worked at the Infant Center in Richmond and the George Jackson People's Health Clinic. Later she became the School Nurse at the Oakland Community School.

After the Party Jody went on to a 19 years career with AT&T, where she served as Shop Steward of Local 9415 and convinced her company to sponsor onsite higher educational programs for the employees.

She was truly a sweet and innocent caring person. We will miss her.



A SALUTE TO THE SPIRIT OF DR. KWAME SABAKHU-RA

In Harriet Tubman City (Baltimore) BPP veterans have maintained formation as the Organization of All-Afrikan Unity/Black Panther Cadre. A leading member in this Panther formation was Dr. Kwame Sabakhu-Ra (Gerald Gantt), who was a holistic physician and acupuncturist. Veteran Panther Warren Nelson referred to him as "The Peoples' Doctor" because Brother Kwame understood that capitalism and racism has adversely affected the health of the Black community and as a physician he served the interest of Black people.



In 1994, Brother Kwame joined the OAAU-BPC and in 1995, pledged to be a Panther under the leadership of veteran Panthers. He was Deputy Chairman of the OAAU-BPC and a priest in Par-Amun. He helped to support the independent Afrikan-centered school Umoja Nyumba Shule founded by Zaakirah Muhammad and her husband Lt. Hakim Shabazz Muhammad, who also pledged to be members of the Black Panther Cadre in 1995. Brother Kwame had also worked in support of the Marshall E. Conway Support Committee and was a leading member in the Mid-Atlantic Region of the Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations.

Brother Kwame died Thursday, August 17, 2000 while in Banneker City (Washington, DC) for a convention of the National Medical Association. The revolutionary heritage and legacy of the Black Panther Party is unrelenting thanks to the commitment, dedication and determination of brothers and sisters like Brother Kwame Sabakhu-Ra.

All Power to the People!

Long Live the Spirit of Kwame Sabakhu-Ra!

XUGUNNA LUMUMBA was born in Charleston, South Carolina in 1937. He moved to Baltimore, MD, at age nine. He was one of the original founders of the Soul School, formed in 1968, to improve the quality of life for Blacks in America through teaching awareness, self-respect and black history. He served as vice-president of the Congress of Racial Equality and as captain of the Black Panther Party. He helped organize the first major Black Arts Festival in Baltimore.



Xugunna was an eloquent speaker and great debater. He often taught our youth about their heritage. He was a hard worker, an active member of the union at Bethlehem Steel and the Steamship Trade Association. He retired due to illness and passed away on October 31, 1999. He will be greatly missed.

The "It's About Time" Newsletter
appreciates the support of both the
Vanguard Foundation and the LEF Foundation.

Where Are They Now?

GREGORY LOMAX-LEWIS (son of Pam and Greg Lewis) resides in Oakland, CA with his wife and two children. He has a BA in African-American and Cinema Studies from San Francisco State University, where he wrestled and played football. He is now in his final year of law school at New College of CA. After graduation, Gregory plans to work as a solo-practitioner, focusing on entertainment law, criminal law, and civil litigation.

Gregory is involved with several Bay Area non-profit organizations and law firms as a researcher, writer and law clerk. He has written for their newsletters and publications for over five years. He also works for Chip Fitzgerald's defense committee. Gregory is a musician who writes music, plays the guitar and performs at venues around the Bay Area and for family and friends.

Gregory is currently working on a book "Power to the Children" which is a thought provoking journey into his life and his relationship with the Black Panther Party. Gregory attended the Panther school, the Oakland Community Learning Center (OCLC) for nine years. The OCLC offered a unique curriculum, an alternative to the inept public schools, which placed students according to their abilities and allowed them to excel academically and socially at an early age.

He also relates the impact of his parents departure from the Black Panther Party, when he was forced to make a slow adjustment to the realities of life outside of the sheltered lifestyle of the organization.



Greg then



Greg and Cevae, now

SOS - Save our Soldiers

TEDDY JAH HEATH was born on September 16, 1943 in the West Indies. He came to New York City in 1966 where he was confronted with the same oppressive conditions that he had left in the West Indies. He joined the Black Panther Party (BPP) in 1968. He was a member of the BPP when the entire New York leadership was arrested and charged with numerous counts of conspiracy: the New York 21. After spending 26 months in jail, the Panther 21 were acquitted of all charges. However, they came home to an organization split and shattered by overt and covert attacks by the Federal, state and local government. Jah and others decided to go underground and function clandestinely with the Black Liberation Army (BLA).

The government sought out former Panthers who had gone underground with search and destroy tactics. Many, like Harold Russell, Twymon Myers, Frank 'Heavy' Fields, Woodie 'Changa' Green and Anthony 'Kimu' White were killed and others incarcerated. On May 2, 1973, one day before the capture of Sundiata Acoli and Assata Shakur on the New Jersey Turnpike, Teddy 'Jah' Heath and his former Panther 21 co-defendant, Baba Odinga were arrested and charged with the politically motivated kidnapping of an organized crime figure from Westchester County. The case stemmed from the attempt to remove drugs from the Black community. The kidnapping ended peacefully with no injuries to anyone.

Jah's trial took place in Westchester County before an all-white jury during the time of massive widespread hysteria by the government about the BLA. He was denied the attorney of his choice. Jah was sentenced to 25 years to life. He has been confined to maximum security prisons and transferred numerous times due to his political activity behind the walls. He has spent time teaching Black history and political education classes.

Jah was denied parole twice and does not come up again until 2002. He has been diagnosed with cancer and a petition is circulating for his release on medical grounds. For more information and to download the petition: www.thejerichomovement.com. Donations can be sent to Jericho National Organizing Committee, PO Box 650, New York, NY 10009 (212) 3340-9190, e-mail: Jericho98@usa.net

electricity and social security. The Cuban people are well educated, knowledgeable and showed us warmth and hospitality. They are very proud of their achievements. We were also able to enjoy the fabulous music and culture. One of the highlights of the trip was the chance to visit with Assata Shakur and Nehanda Abiodun.

We presented them with gifts which included three videos (All Power to the People, The FBI's War Against Black America, and the Case of Geronimo ji jaga), a CD called "Without Apology" (reggae artists in support of Mumia), a tape on the Angola 3, a poster of Lil Bobby Hutton and back issues of the It's About Time newsletter. Assata offered her support for the 35th year BPP reunion.

We met Che Guevara's daughter at the conference and visited the mausoleum of Che and his comrades in the town of Santa Clara, a four-hour bus ride from Havana. This is also the site of the final, historic battle of the revolution in which Che and 20 men captured a train full of armaments with over 400 of Batista's soldiers on board. We made many new friends among the

*Billy X
and Assata*



600 North American delegates, representing many progressive groups in the United States. We met many people who had worked with the BPP in the past, including some who attended the 1969 United Front Against Fascism Conference, worked on the Breakfast program, attended the Constitutional Convention, worked on the campaign to free Bobby and Erica and supported other Party programs.

We would like to thank the International Action Center, especially Gloria La Riva, for inviting us to be part of their delegation and for the tremendous job of organizing such a large group.

A Message to Our Readers

Our publication is experiencing tremendous growth in its nationwide circulation. As a result, our costs have increased substantially. In order to meet the demand, we need your help.

A small donation of \$10 to \$25 a year would enable us to grow, maintain regular publication and continue mail delivery, especially to the many prisoners on our list. Even 10 stamps will cover the cost of one newsletter for one year!

Please provide help in any way you can. Your support will be appreciated. All donations are tax-deductible. Please make checks out to It's About Time, Inc., PO Box 221100, Sacramento, CA 95822.

EVENTS

POETRY ON A SATURDAY AFTERNOON will feature the following readers at Carol's Books, 5964 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento, CA - January 27, Khiry Malik; February 24, Angelo Williams; March 31, Avotcja. Featured readers at 2pm, open mic at 3pm.

THE WALTER O EVANS exhibit of African-American Art opened on December 15, at the Crocker Museum, 216 O Street, Sacramento, CA. The Straight Out Scribes will perform a special presentation at this exhibit on January 11, 2001 at 7pm. The exhibit will continue until March.

CRITICAL RESISTANCE EAST - The Northeast Regional Strategy Session and Conference will be held in New York City on March 9-11, 2001. CR East will focus on the impact of the prison industrial complex from Maine to Washington, DC and how we might organize to defeat the PIC in the East.

PROTEST BUSH'S INAUGURATION - Saturday, Jan. 20, 2001 in San Francisco at Civic Center Plaza, Grove & Larkin, 12:00 noon (Civic Ctr. BART Station) and in Washington, DC at 10:00am at Pennsylvania and 14th Street NW - For more info: www.iacenter.org

Recommended Websites

afrocubaweb.com/assata.htm
afrikan.net
mumia.org
nalfnationtime.com
itsabouttimebpp.com
prisonactivist.org
commondreaus.org
opensecrets.org
copvcia.com
gamma.cubaweb.cu

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